REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2003 (Paper No. 5). Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claim 1 is being amended, and Claims 5 to 7 are being added, herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification of the invention, together with the Abstract, are amended herein to address the objections raised in the Office Action. In addition, Claim 1 is amended to correct the spelling error noted in the Office Action.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 to 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,314,528 (Kim), Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kim and U.S. Patent 6,255,744 (Shih), and Claim 4 was rejected over Kim and U.S. Patent 5,247,205 (Mototani).

Claim 1 is amended to substantially include the limitations of Claim 4, and Claim 4 is cancelled.

As amended, Claim 1 defines an electronic apparatus including a memory to which a power is supplied from a main power supply of the apparatus, a main switch for controlling turn-on/turn-off of the main power supply of the apparatus and a soft-switch for controlling mechanical closing/opening of the main switch. A control means of the apparatus determines whether important data which causes serious damage when erased is stored in the memory, when the shutdown of the main power supply is instructed by the soft-switch, and controls a shutdown operation of the main power supply by the main switch according to a result of the determination. A backup battery supplies power to the memory while the main power supply is shut down, and a switch means controls the supply

from the backup battery to the memory. The control means forcibly holds the supply from the backup battery to the memory through the switch means when the control means determines that important data is stored in the memory.

The applied art, namely Kim, Shih and Mototani, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the above-identified features, particularly with respect to a control means that controls a shutdown operation of a main power supply, and that forcibly holds a power supply from a backup battery to memory, when the control means determines that the memory stores important data.

Kim is seen to describe a computing system which sets a flag if a boot operation completes successfully, and a main power supply unit supplies power to the system until active programs are closed if the boot operation is successful. (See Kim, Abstract)

It is conceded, at page 5 of the Office Action, that Kim fails to disclose a backup power supply.

Mototani is seen to describe a battery which is used to supply power when a AC/DC converter is determined to be in an abnormal state. (See Mototani, Abstract and col. 1, lines 40 to 60) According to Mototani, an auxiliary contact 5 and a short detecting contact 9 are used to identify an abnormal state (i.e., a power failure or a power surge), the occurrence of which results in the battery supplying power. (See Mototani, col. 3, line 60 to col. 5, line 49 and Figure 5) Thus, Motatani is not seen to disclose the features of determining whether important data is being stored in memory and forcibly holding the supply of power to the memory from a backup power supply when it is determined that important data is being stored in the memory.

Shih has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Kim and Mototani. Shih is seen to describe an inexpensive battery backup, which provides backup power in response to a power interruption. Shih is not seen to describe making a determination whether important data is stored in memory and forcibly holding the supply of power from the backup power supply to the memory when it is determined that important data is stored in the memory.

Accordingly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest a control means that controls a shutdown operation of a main power supply, and that forcibly holds a power supply from a backup battery to memory, when it is determined that the memory stores important data.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claim 5 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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